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Candidate eyeing Ward 1 seat

POLITICS In the first of many political announcements leading up to the October municipal election, a candidate has stepped forward intent on unseating Ward 1 incumbent Ald. Dale Hodges.

Christopher Harper, in an email to Metro, said his campaign will focus on "ensuring that it's time we get what we pay for from the City of Calgary."

Harper, a Calgary business consultant, said in the email he has made a career out of helping businesses find efficiencies and become more effective through doing more with what they have.

Dale Hodges has held the Ward 1 seat since 1983.

METRO CALGARY

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Joe Thornton is knocked to the ice by Team USA's Brooks Orpik during first-period men's hockey action yesterday at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. The U.S. beat Canada 5-3. Story, page 10

Not-so-super Sunday

Death of skater's mom precedes U.S. defeat of Team Canada

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

When skater Joannie Rochette stepped on the ice, yesterday's hockey game didn't seem all that important.

The mother of the 24-year-old from Ile-Dupas, Que., had a massive heart attack after arriving Saturday in Vancouver, said Rochette's agent David Baden. Therese Rochette, 55, collapsed and was taken to a Vancouver hospital where she died overnight.

Joannie Rochette still plans to compete in tomorrow's short program, Skate Canada officials said.

The tragedy overshadowed what had been billed as the marquee event of the day, the men's hockey matchup between Canada and the United States.

There was no joy for Canadian fans at Canada Hockey Place either: Despite a frantic Canadian effort to square the game in the last two minutes, the U.S. won 5-3.

There was, however, one silver lining yesterday as long-track speedskater Kristina Groves took second place in the women's 1,500 metres to claim her second medal of the Vancouver campaign.

The 33-year-old from Ottawa was on track for gold until she ran out of steam on the final lap. Dutch skater Ireen Wust got past her, while Czech Martina Sablikova took the bronze.

"That was a little disappointing for sure," Groves said. "I just had maybe too much excitement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRT plan being pushed

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

TRANSIT Moving people faster through the city appears to be a priority for council.

A plan to identify potential bus rapid-transit (BRT) routes and rank them by priority will be discussed today at council and one alderman says the move would be good for the entire city.

Ald. Bob Hawkesworth said he supports a notice of motion by Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart to implement the plan.

"I think it's great. I think BRT routes are a way to put rapid transit in areas where we can't afford to put LRT service. It's the benefits of LRT's at a much lower cost," he said.

Colley-Urquhart's plan would identify and prioritize potential BRT routes and search for opportunities to speed up transit runs, such as transit-only signals and lanes.

"I think it is great for the whole city, it really helps people get around efficiently," Hawkesworth added.

A BRT gets commuters around by speeding up the trip with express buses making fewer stops.

A BRT route into the southeast began last fall.

Ald. Brian Pincott moved forward with a motion two weeks ago asking for a southwest BRT plan.

Repeated calls for comment from Colley-Urquhart went unanswered.

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage throughout the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Today — Exuberant fans give big boost to athletes, page 10

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

DOMANN, Heidi (Kirchner)
FELL , Queenie Hopper (Kay) (Cheesman)
FRIEDRICH, Eitel John
GANGL, Agnes Margaret (Stolz)
GRAVELLE, Eleanor Louise
HENDERSON, Maisie Edith
HOLLANDER, Orrie Ethel (nee Doherty)
HORNE, Margaret Jacqueline (Peggy)
HUCK, Kevin Andrew
HUDSON, Joan Marilyn
LATZEL, Heinz Herbert
LE MANNE , Giacoma (nee Giacalone)
MORAN, (Hollie) Olwen (nee Howell)
NIELSEN, Ib Palle Alfred
PEACOCK, Fred Halliday
RAWLINSON, Brent Maurice
REILLY, Marguerite Isabelle (Craigen)
RINEHART, John "Jack" Frank
ROSELLE , Barbara Elaine (nee Boyd)
ROSSI, Shirley Eileen (nee Vessey)
ROSYCHUK, James (Jim)
SEIDEL, Katherine
SMITH, Ramona June
SNIDER , Gloria Jean (Marietta)
TAMSEN, Roxsane (Born Brenda Susan Stewart-Burgoyne)
TAYLOR, Gloria Jean (nee Jahnke)
TORO, Ida (nee Di Giovannantonio)
TRENHOLME, John Douglas

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

Paws-up for off-leash park

Owners, pets check out new 'long overdue' playground

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Dozens of dogs and their dog owners put their feet and paws to the ground over the weekend and enjoyed a brand new off-leash dog park deep in the city's southeast.

Officially opened Saturday, the 11-hectare off-leash park situated between Auburn Bay and Mahogany in the southeast was inundated with dogs and the parking lot was almost full yesterday, but that didn't deter Sasha Lacic from bringing her yellow Labrador Bella for a long walk in the park.

"Oh, I think this new park is beautiful and it's nice to have one in the south. It's nice to not have to drive too far to bring the dog out for a walk now," Lacic said.

"I think we will get a lot of use out of this park."

Other dog owners enjoyed their weekends at the new park playing catch with their canines, including Matt Lager, who drove from New Brighton to check out the new dog playground.

"It looks good so far, and the dogs seem to like it. I think it's the perfect location," he said.

Area Alderman Ric McIver said he was happy to see dozens of dogs already at the park before the official launch.

"It's great to see the enthusiasm and nice to have so many people out already. I think this park has been long overdue," McIver said, adding a partnership with the provincial government made the park possible.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Sasha Lacic and her yellow Lab Bella check out the new off-leash park in the city's southeast.

Increase biking options, not path speeds: Ald.

COUNCIL More street-friendly biking options are needed in the city, not higher speed limits on the city's pathways, according to a city alderman.

Ward 11 Ald. Brian Pincott said he heard from concerned multi-path users about Ward 12 Ald. Ric McIver's motion at council today to review path speed limits, possibly increasing limits in some areas.

"We have to remember that these are multi-use pathways and I don't think increasing the speed limit is the right answer. That would put users at risk," Pincott said.

Pincott

Instead, Pincott would like to see more street-friendly bike areas and more bike-only paths.

"We have some spots in the city where they are bike only and there we can look at raising the speed limits. But we need more of those in the city."

McIver is putting forward the motion after he heard from hundreds of people who want higher speed limits when no one is around, but he said bikers would need to slow down to pass users.

Marco Huevo runs along the river several times a week and doesn't support higher speed limits.

"To be honest, I think they already go too fast and I wouldn't feel safe if they went faster," he said.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/ METRO CALGARY

Firefighters add delivery to service

BIRTH Station 36 firefighters got to bring a bundle of joy into the world early Saturday morning.

Crews responded to a home in the 300 block of Macewan Valley Mews NW around 7:10 a.m. and upon arrival began the delivery. EMS crews arrived shortly after and observed while firefighters completed the delivery. METRO CALGARY

Following news stories on Twitter...

CalgaryTweets

@allisoncross It's taking forever to board this plane in Calgary because everyone's trying to watch the game as they find their seats. Go Canada go!

@MattGrahamCA I had the most amazing prime rib at the sunday brunch at the Fairmont Palliser in Calgary! #yyc

@amackenzie Driving back from Vancouver to Calgary should have been a snowy trip. Not. Even Rogers Pass is snow free, dry and clear with great vistas.

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What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann on options for those refused permanent residency for failing to prove English skills at metronews.ca/immigration

Lotteries

Friday, Feb. 19
Lotto Max: 04, 23, 27, 32, 35, 43 & 47 Bonus 24
Saturday, Feb. 20
Lotto 6/49: 13, 15, 18, 20, 23 & 26 Bonus 17
These results are not official.

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No leads in missing scientist case
There are still no leads in the case of an eastern Ontario scientist who disappeared without a trace last month, leaving his colleagues mystified. Lachlan Cranswick hasn't been seen since Jan. 18, when he left work at the National Research Council's Canadian Neutron Beam Centre in Chalk River, northwest of Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

RDS comments draw fire

A Quebec gay rights group plans to file a complaint today with the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council over comments made at the Olympics by two announcers on French-language sports channel RDS. "This may not be politically correct," veteran sportscaster Claude Mailhot said of U.S. figure skater Johnny Weir, left. "But do you think he lost points due to his costume and his body language?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students heading safely home

After harrowing rescue at sea, all 64 passengers survive ship sinking

The 64 survivors of a Canadian sailing vessel that sank off Brazil are expected to begin leaving for home over the next 24 hours.

An official with West Island College International of Lunenburg, N.S., which operates the Class Afloat program, says students, staff and crew of the SV Concordia are in final meetings prior to their departures from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

School CEO Nigel McCarthy says the survivors have spent much of the last day replacing items that went down with the ship, including clothing and travel documents such as passports. He says they have also had meetings with trauma councillors and medical personnel.

McCarthy says all that remains at this point is to get the students "into the arms of their parents as quickly as we can."

The three-masted vessel sank in rough seas on Feb. 17, after experiencing a weather phenomenon known as a "microburst" — a sudden, violent downdraft of wind — that instantly crippled the vessel, leaving the crew clinging to life rafts for up to 40 hours before they were rescued by navy and merchant vessels.

The ship was on a five-month voyage that allows students in grades 11 and 12, and the first year of college, to study while sailing around the world. There were 48 students on board — 42 from Canada and six from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe and the West Indies.

Last night, the Brazilian navy defended its response to the shipwreck that left the students adrift on the ocean for two nights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unidentified students from the sunken Canadian ship Concordia react as they arrive at Mocangue naval base in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday. After clinging to life rafts in high seas for up to 40 hours, more than five dozen students and crew were rescued.

Reform MPs set for big pensions

OTTAWA Almost all the remaining MPs from the old Reform Party, including Stephen Harper, stand to collect over $100,000 a year in pension benefits once they retire.

Eleven of the original group of 52 Reformers, who captured public attention with their stand against "gold-plated" pensions for members of Parliament, are still sitting in the House of Commons.

And they may find their old pension promises coming back to haunt them as the Harper government turns its attention to eliminating the federal deficit.

Back in 1993 when Reformers first arrived on Parliament Hill, the party made its name by advocating cuts to MP pensions as a way of leading by example and facing down the deficit. Now though, almost all of the original group of Reformers who said they would turn down the generous benefits package have quietly opted back in, according to tracking by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. Preston Manning and Werner Schmidt were the key exceptions.

Of the remaining 11 former Reformers in the Commons, 10 would receive well over $100,000 a year in benefits if they retire by the end of the year. The Prime Minister's Office did not respond to questions about the issue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premiers get warm U.S. welcome

POLITICS Seven Canadian premiers wrapped up a three-day visit to the U.S. capital yesterday, some of them heralding a new era in Canada-U.S. relations, following their moment in the spotlight at an influential conference of American governors.

The premiers of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were warmly welcomed by U.S. power brokers throughout their time in Washington, D.C., including three top-level figures in President Barack Obama's administration.

But the highlight of their trip was their participation in the winter meeting of the National Governors Association, with about 20 U.S. governors, mostly from border states, joining them for a round table. The good will was in such abundance that Pennsylvania's Edward Rendell sang a chorus of "O Canada".

"Canadians are not just our closest neighbours, they're our best friends. There's hardly any place in the world where you could have an open border of this distance." Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour

Meanwhile, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour raved about the relationship between the two countries. "The Canadians are not just our closest neighbours, they're our best friends," he said. "There's hardly any place in the world where you could have an open border of this distance. It's breathtaking. What a wonderful relationship."

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty urged the governors to push for barrier-free trade between the two countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mountie murder trial begins

NUNAVUT The trial of a man charged with shooting an RCMP officer in a remote Arctic community is scheduled to begin today.

The death of Const. Douglas Scott has already helped change policing in the North, says Chief Supt. Steve McVarnock. "It was very common to be by yourself when your partner went out (of town)," McVarnock said. "Usually they would go out for three or four weeks at a time and you would be it for that community."

That was the situation facing Scott in November 2007, when he was fatally shot while responding alone to a drunk-driving call that came into the two-person detachment in Kimmirut, Nunavut. McVarnock says the North has changed and the safety of solo officers is no longer a given. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

POLITICAL SCANDAL Canada's former ambassador to Washington, Michael Wilson, worried someone in the Harper government was making him a scapegoat for a damaging leak during Barack Obama's campaign for the presidency, an internal email shows. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Baby born on plane to be baptized on board as well

A baby girl born on a military-run airliner in Bolivia will be baptized on the plane as well — with the chief of the air force presiding as godfather. Tami Fabiola was born on Feb. 14 on a Transportes Aereos Militares plane at an altitude of 24,000 feet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Childhood Obama statue moved

A statue of Barack Obama as a 10-year-old boy was placed yesterday at the Jakarta elementary school the U.S. president once attended, after its display in a public park prompted backlash in the Indonesian capital. Many Indonesians are proud of Obama's connections to Indonesia, but detractors of the statue's park display argued an Indonesian hero should be honoured instead. A Facebook campaign attracted more than 50,000 supporters of the statue's removal, and court action was initiated to force it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Outgunned Taliban still fighting in Marjah

AFGHANISTAN Outnumbered and outgunned, Taliban fighters are mounting a tougher fight than expected in the town of Marjah, Afghan officials said yesterday, as U.S.-led forces converged on a pocket of militants in a western section of the town.

With fighter jets, drones and attack helicopters roaring overhead, Marine and Afghan companies advanced on a 5.2-square-kilometre area where more than 40 insurgents were believed holed up.

"They are squeezed," said Lt.-Col. Brian Christmas, commander of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "It looks like they want to stay and fight but they can always drop their weapons and slip away. That's the nature of this war."

Instead, the insurgents rigged Marjah with bombs and booby traps to slow the allied attack. Teams of Taliban gunmen stayed in the town, delivering sometimes intense volleys of gunfire on Marine and Afghan units slogging through the rutted streets and poppy fields.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Months in making

- U.S. officials signalled their intention to attack Marjah, a major Taliban supply and opium-smuggling centre, months ago, apparently in hopes the insurgents would flee and allow the U.S.-led force to take over quickly.

Dozens dead after mudslides and floods

Rescue workers in Madeira dug through heaps of mud, boulders and debris yesterday, searching for victims buried by floods and mudslides that have killed at least 42 people on the popular Portuguese island.

ARMANDO FRANCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cars and mud block a street in Madeira, Portugal yesterday.

Residents looking for missing loved ones were directed by local authorities to the resort's international airport, where a makeshift morgue has been set up.

Social services spokesman Francisco Jardim Ramos said not all the bodies had been identified. The centre is equipped with psychiatric, psychological and social counselling services, he said.

More than 120 other people were injured and an unknown number were missing, possibly swept away or smothered, authorities said, adding the death could still rise.

Of 248 people who were forced to flee their homes for temporary shelters, 85 have been allowed to return home, Ramos said.

Late yesterday, a spokeswoman for the British Foreign office confirmed that a British national had died, but declined to give further details.

The Foreign Office also said a small number of Britons had been hospitalized on Madeira.

The island is popular with British tourists, who for centuries have regarded wines made in Madeira as a luxury product.

The worst storm to hit Madeira since 1993 lashed the south of the Atlantic Ocean island, including the capital, Funchal, Saturday, turning some streets into torrents of mud, water and rolling debris.

The flash floods were so powerful they carved paths down mountains and ripped through the city, churning under bridges and tearing others down.

The island's most famous son, Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, was horrified by the floods. "I want to express my willingness to, as far as I can, help agencies and authorities to overcome the effects of this devastation." he told journalists in Madrid.

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New Israeli drones could reach Iran

MILITARY Israel's air force yesterday introduced a fleet of huge pilotless planes that can remain in the air for a full day and fly as far as the Persian Gulf, putting rival Iran within its range.

The Heron TP drones have a wingspan of 26 metres, making them the size of Boeing 737 passenger jets and the largest unmanned aircraft in Israel's military. The planes can fly at least 20 consecutive hours and are primarily used for surveillance and carrying diverse payloads.

Israeli officials refused to say whether the planes were designed for use against Iran.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

British Embassy lends a hand to Israelis who found themselves linked to a reported Dubai "hit squad." Scan this code for the story.

News in brief

AUTO Toyota officials claimed they saved $100 million US by successfully negotiating with the American government on a limited recall of floor mats in some Toyota and Lexus vehicles, according to new documents shared with congressional investigators. The documents could set off alarms over whether Toyota put profits ahead of customer safety.

FLORIDA Three teenage girls were joking around and taking pictures on a narrow bridge in a Florida town when they were hit by a train, killing them as a friend watched helplessly, police and a witness said yesterday. The girls and the fourth teenager, a boy, had been hanging out in Melbourne's downtown area when they decided to cross the trestle bridge around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Lt. Curtis Barger said. The boy yelled for the girls to run when he saw the train approach, then told them to jump, Barger said. Crane Creek, about six metres below the bridge, is slow-moving and about three metres deep. The girls did not have enough time to get away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

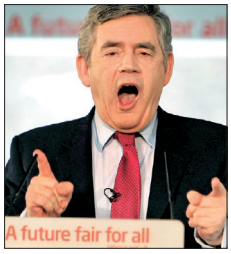
Dutch troops will pull out of Afghanistan
Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende says Dutch troops will begin leaving southern Afghanistan in August. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Book claims Brown abusive, angry

The British public was introduced yesterday to what one political journalist has painted as the dark face of the country's prime minister: An angry, abusive man whose rages were so intense, Britain's top bureaucrat had to intervene to comfort distressed staff.

The description, in Andrew Rawnsley's book, The End of the Party, is vigorously contested by Brown and his lieutenants, who say, although he does get angry, he's not a bully.

One passage describes Brown yanking a secretary from her chair for typing too slowly. Another says he flew into rages so regularly that a chair was dotted with marks from where he stabbed it with a pen. At one point, the book said, Cabinet Secretary Gus O'Donnell had to intervene to calm the situation down.



Gordon Brown

Rawnsley says his work is based on thousands of interviews with hundreds of people both inside and out the government over the years.

The discomfiting take on Brown's personality comes at time when the prime minister has sought to humanize his distant and often dour image.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Test-tube babies as healthy as others: Researchers

MEDICAL SCIENCE More than 30 years after the world greeted its first "test-tube" baby, researchers are finding few medical differences between these kids and others conceived the traditional way.

More than three million children have been born as a result injecting sperm into the egg outside the human body, and it now accounts for about four per cent of live births, researchers said yesterday at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting.

Most of these children are healthy and normal, although some do face increased risk of birth defects, such as neural tube defects and low birth weight, which is associated with obesity, hypertension and Type 2 diabetes later in life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Government reroutes Green TRIP

In its budget announcement earlier this month, the province promised $70 million would finally be paid from the highly touted Green Transit Incentives Program (Green TRIP), but after breaking similar promises since Green TRIP was first unveiled in July 2008, I don't think we should hold our breath.

A brief history of Green TRIP demonstrates why this funding might never come to be.

The $2-billion program, aimed to promote the use of local, regional and inter-city public transit, was first announced in July 2008 with full details promised by that fall. By November, the Alberta government cut the funding to $1.6 billion.

Granted, the recession was underway when the funding was reduced; however, Green TRIP funding was part of the same climate change action plan as $2 billion set aside for carbon capture and storage (CCS) funding, and that funding has never been in jeopardy. In fact, all money from the CCS fund has been allocated to corporations such as Shell and TransAlta.

In the February 2009 budget, we were told $195 million would be directed towards Green TRIP initially, with $10 million to $50 million in that budget year. By November, that commitment was also reneged on.

It's déjà vu all over again. This month, $70 million has been promised for this budget year with program and application details to be released later in the year. An additional $200 million has been pledged for the following two years, leaving the bulk of the $2 billion yet to be acknowledged.

Tammy Forbes, Alberta Transportation spokesperson, defended the lack of action, saying, "It was announced as a multi-year program and because it is a project specific program it does not have a specific time period."

That argument doesn't fly. The CCS fund was fully allocated within two years. Further, the Stelmach government now plans to take its energy and environment education blitz to Alberta classrooms to teach children about CCS — a controversial technology.

Meanwhile, tangible opportunities are being squandered. Communities like Cochrane, High River, Okotoks and Airdrie are eager to expand public transit options for commuters heading into Calgary.

Public transit investment provides local jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and clears traffic congestion. The province is doing a disservice to its climate change action plan and to its citizens by not taking its funding commitments to Green TRIP seriously.

Adrienne Beattie is a Calgary-born writer who has covered urban issues since 2001 and has an English degree from the University of Calgary.

Views

A little insanity can lead to big things

For the last 10 days I've spent many hours lounging on the couch, chowing down on chips and pop, watching the sports coverage and I've started to wonder, "What is it that makes these Olympic athletes different than me?"

I cannot think of a single reason I should not have become a contender for a medal in these Games. I can think of about a hundred. Starting with — I'm not prepared to go outside in winter or wear spandex pants in public.

The reason these athletes have achieved what the rest of us haven't is not because they have superior talent and ability to the rest of us. They do, of course, but that's not the reason. The main reason is they believe they can do it.

I have come to believe that what keeps most of us from realizing our dreams is a pesky thing called "sanity." Sanity is what stops most of us from deciding, "Gosh it might be fun to strap on skis or throw ourselves onto a flimsy metal frame and go hurtling down icy vertical drops at 200,000 km/h." Because of this, most of us see sanity as a good thing.

I'm not suggesting for a moment that high-performance athletes aren't sane. With the exception of most snowboarders, of course. But I wonder if, for many of us, "sanity" is just another word for "believing we can't actually get what we want." Our brains, which really should limit themselves to finding cures for cancer and remembering where the channel changer got put, see a new idea and say, "Oh dear. This might not work out. I will not do this." And so our response is not to try.

Maybe what makes an Olympic athlete different from the rest of us is that they listen to the desire of their heart before the warning in their head. So knowing this, am I likely to be gunning for a medal any time soon? Probably not. But when I do take on the dreams and challenges that life presents, hopefully I'll be just like our amazing athletes. Entirely courageous and a little bit insane.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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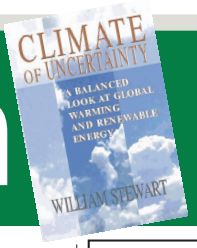

Uncertain climate

Insightful and refreshingly level-headed, Climate of Uncertainty tackles all of the major climate change issues facing our world today. William Stewart examines the issues with objectivity rarely seen in an arena so fraught with extremism. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Sting sending out an SOS

Pop-star joining Prince Charles' campaign to save rainforests

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Sending an SOS to the world is what British pop-star and environmentalist Sting has been doing lately.

This time not with the song Message in a Bottle but with a video, part of the Rainforest SOS, a campaign currently underway by the Prince's Rainforests Project (PRP).

The main goal is to draw attention and support to preserve world's rain forests.

To get global awareness, Sting and other celebrities joined the efforts of Prince of Wales' project.

"Climate change and the rapidly increasing destruction of the Earth's ecosystems, which we depend upon for vital materials and services are, to my mind, the greatest challenges facing the world." said Prince Charles. "If unchecked, they will dwarf any of our current financial difficulties, resulting in billions of environmental refugees, uncertain production of food and lack of water, the increasing spread of disease and, of course, growing social instability. "

Sting's support of the campaign coincides with the 30th anniversary of the release of The Police's hit Message in a Bottle, from their first album Regatta de Blanc.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Prince Charles is working to determine how the rate of rainforest destruction can be slowed.

"Thirty years ago, I wrote Message in a Bottle. Today, I'm supporting The Prince's Rainforests Project to send an SOS to the world. Sending your SOS is easy, and can help create the climate for change."

Sorting out a solution, the PRP has developed a proposal for emergency funding to help protect rainforests and to use incentives to encourage rainforest nations to continue to develop without the need for planned deforestation.

The PRP was established in October 2007 by The Prince of Wales to develop consensus on to how the rate of rainforest destruction might be slowed.

With increased climate change disasters, the number of environmental refugees is expected to climb.

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Nevada casinos lose $6.8B
A new report shows Nevada's major casinos posted a net loss of $6.8 billion US in fiscal year 2009, more than a 1,000 per cent plunge from the $721 million earned in the prior year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 96.02¢ (Friday's close)	US $5.17 (Friday's close)	US $79.06 (Friday's close)	11,694.84 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Learning money skills

National task force will focus on spreading financial literacy

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy is launching a series of cross-country conversations with Canadians about savings, debt, and their overall financial know-how as it drafts a national strategy to create more financially educated citizens.

The task force will release its Leveraging Excellence consultation document today as a starting point to discuss issues including managing debt, saving and investing, retirement planning and preventing fraud.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set up the group in June, citing his belief that improving Canadians' knowledge of financial matters would contribute to a more stable economy.

Laurie Campbell, executive director at Credit Canada and a member of the task force, said she hopes the consultation process will resonate with Canadians and the strategy developed will encourage everyone to become more engaged in their finances.

"People just don't know the basics."
Laurie Campbell, Credit Canada

She said she works with people on a daily basis who don't understand interest rates, or their credit card statements, and who lack money management skills.

"People just don't know the basics. This is very concerning, because with that basic information they can get out of serious financial difficulties and make sure (a credit crisis) doesn't happen again."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google hacks came from universities

ONLINE The Internet attacks that may end up driving Google Inc. out of China originated from two prominent schools in the country, according to a story published late Thursday.

The New York Times reported security investigators have traced the hacking to computers at Shanghai Jiaotong University and Lanxiang Vocational School in China.

The company revealed on Jan. 12 that digital thieves had tried to break into the accounts of human rights activists opposed to China's policies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retail **Making money, as usual**

PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. retail giant Wal-Mart has posted a 22 per cent jump in fiscal fourth-quarter net profit to $4.63 billion US, but its revenue was lacklustre. Excluding certain one-time charges, Wal-Mart reported earnings of $1.17 per share, slightly higher than the $1.12 per share expected by most analysts for the quarter ending Jan. 31.

A sweet deal for Quebec company

LAURA SECORD Under new owners, the Laura Secord chain says it will introduce products such as anti-oxidant-rich chocolates with cranberries and blueberries and nut-free 100-gram bars in a bid to boost the business.

The 128-store retailer also has big plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013, the company said after formally announcing on Friday it has agreed to be bought by Nutriart Inc., a Quebec-based chocolate manufacturer.

The iconic Canadian retailer, named for a heroine of the War of 1812, said being owned by a candy manufacturer will help it cut costs and boost sales.

"That's really the way to go in this business," Laura Secord's chief retail officer Raj Sharma said in a telephone interview.

Nutriart, which was already a Laura Secord supplier, said the deal will create 25 jobs at its state-of-the-art plant in Quebec City as it doubles production. The company will now make all of the retailer's "base chocolate" plus some finished goods, such as the 100-gram bar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CLEMENT ALLARD

Nutriart's Jean Leclerc holds an old box of Laura Secord chocolates. The company will now be back in Canadian hands.

Sharma declined to comment on published reports Nutriart got the Laura Secord stores for $19.5 million, well below the $27.6 million a U.S. equity firm paid in 2004 for what was then a 160-store chain.

Gordon Brothers Group LLC, which bought Laura Secord from troubled Chicago-based Archibald Candy Corp., signalled last summer it was ready to sell. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retail sales made slow comeback last year

SHOPPING In the end, recession-weary Canadians came out and shopped.

Retail sales finished the year up 6.7 per cent over last year, including a 0.4 per cent gain in the month of December, Statistics Canada said Friday.

The annual increase was driven mainly by sales of new cars and higher gasoline prices. Excluding those volatile items, retail sales ended the year 2.4 per cent higher, the federal agency noted.

"It was one of those okay, not great, years. But if we had been talking about it at the beginning of the year, we would have thought it was going to be a lot worse," said Maureen Atkinson, a senior partner with J.C. Williams Group, a retail consulting firm in Toronto.

Indeed, retail sales for the previous year fell 6.8 per cent as a slowing economy came to a sudden halt when the credit crunch hit in October 2008, sparking a global financial crisis.

In comparison, most of 2009 has been a story of gradual recovery.

When combined with other recent data, including declining jobless claims, it appears the economic recovery is taking firmer root, Doug Porter, deputy chief economist with BMO Nesbitt Burns, wrote in a note to clients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mauer reports to camp
American League MVP Joe Mauer has reported to spring training for the Minnesota Twins without a contract extension in place. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Federer out
Roger Federer, left, withdrew from the Dubai Championships because of a lung infection yesterday. Organizers said he picked up the infection last week and will miss the $2-million US event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

PGA boss takes blame

Golfers poorly informed about Woods event: Finchem

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem took the blame yesterday for not alerting his players about why Tiger Woods chose to make his first public appearance during the Match Play Championship.

Players had to field several questions about Woods upon finishing their matches in the opening round Wednesday, when it was announced that Woods was to speak publicly Friday for the first time since the Nov. 27 car accident that revealed rampant affairs.

Most troubling to some players — Ernie Els in particular — was the perception that Woods was getting back at Accenture, the title sponsor at Match Play and the first company to drop Woods over the sex scandal.

"We just screwed up on that. That's just a screw-up on my part."
Tim Finchem, PGA commissioner

Finchem, who allowed Woods to use the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse at PGA Tour headquarters for the nationally televised event, knew that Woods was on a break from therapy and was to return on Saturday.

"In hindsight, we should have pushed the thing along in a way to get the players briefed before they went into their Wednesday matches, some so they're not coming out of a match and getting hit with all these Tiger questions," Finchem said. "We just screwed up on that. That's just a screw-up on my part.

"You can never communicate too much in this business, and when you don't, you usually pay a price. And that was a good example."

Els was among the most outspoken when he learned of Woods' plans to speak.

"It's selfish," he told Golfweek magazine. "You can write that. I feel sorry for the sponsor. Mondays are a good day to make statements, not Friday. This takes a lot away from the golf tournament."

Finchem said he since has spoken to Els, who lost in the second round of the tournament.

"Once he understood the options available to us, and what we were looking at it ... I did say to him, 'The mistake here, given all the elements, was not getting you guys briefed.' I take responsibility for that. That's my job," Finchem said.

Finchem repeated yesterday that Woods has not been suspended; there have been questions whether Woods' infidelity and ensuing fallout would be considered conduct unbecoming a professional. Finchem said Woods was free to return whenever he wanted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damon close to finalizing deal with Tigers: Sources

BASEBALL A person familiar with the negotiations says Johnny Damon has completed his physical with the Detroit Tigers, clearing the way for the team to finalize a one-year contract with the outfielder.

The person spoke yesterday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been announced.

Another person familiar with the situation said Saturday night that the Tigers and Damon agreed on an $8-million US, one-year deal, subject to a physical.

The 36-year-old Damon would bring another left-handed bat to the Tigers' lineup besides switch-hitter Carlos Guillen. Guillen and Damon would likely alternate between left field and designated hitter, but manager Jim Leyland says Guillen would be his everyday hitter out of the No. 5 slot.

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Johnny Damon, 36, is expected to lead off in Detroit's lineup.

Leyland said he told Guillen last fall that he would be the full-time left fielder.

m.metronews.ca

The arrival of healthy Cards sluggers has put a spring in Tony La Russa's step at spring training. Scan this code for the story.

Guillen, who batted .242. with 11 homers and 41 RBI in 81 games last season, was told he would be in the lineup every day.

Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said Damon wasn't in the team's plans as late as January. But Damon came into the picture after the Tigers dealt leadoff hitter Curtis Granderson to the Yankees, then allowed Placido Polanco to walk away via free agency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Denver 114 Boston 105
Detroit 109 San Antonio 101 (OT)
Golden State 108 Atlanta 104
Memphis 104 New Jersey 94
New Orleans 102 Houston 94
Oklahoma City 109 Minnesota 107
Orlando 101 Cleveland 95
Phoenix 104 Sacramento 88
Utah at Portland

TODAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Washington
Milwaukee at New York
Indiana at Dallas
Atlanta at Utah
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers

Sports in brief

SOCCER Roman Pavlyuchenko scored two late goals as Tottenham moved into fourth place in the Premier League with a 3-0 victory at Wigan yesterday, while Manchester City and Liverpool laboured to a scoreless draw. Aston Villa scored four goals in 13 minutes to come from behind and beat Burnley 5-2, and is still in contention for the fourth spot and a chance at next season's Champions League.

GOLF Ian Poulter captured the biggest victory of his career yesterday by leading the final 28 holes to beat Paul Casey, 4 and 2, in an all-England final at the Match Play Championship. Along with winning his first World Golf Championship, the 34-year-old Poulter won for the first time on American soil.

MLS The union for Major League Soccer players accused management of failing to bargain seriously and wouldn't say whether it will play under the terms of its expired labour contract.

ROME Baseball is about to have a permanent home in Rome. Mayor Gianni Alemanno announced plans yesterday to donate a parcel of land for a new, baseball-specific stadium that can host international events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Skeleton win a ratings hit

CTV says 4.6-million viewers stayed up to watch Jon Montgomery's thrilling gold-medal skeleton performance Friday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

What to watch today

TVHighlights

10 a.m.: Men's curling
Canada vs. U.S. (CTV).
11 a.m.: Ski jumping
Team gold medal (TSN).
1 p.m.: Women's hockey
Semifinals — U.S. vs. Sweden (TSN).
2 p.m.: Cross country skiing
Men's and women's team sprint free final (CTV, OLN).
3 p.m.: Women's curling
Sweden vs. Canada (Sportsnet).
3:30 p.m.: Women's curling
Britain vs. Denmark (TSN).
6 p.m.: Women's hockey
Semifinals — Canada vs. Finland (CTV);
6 p.m.: Figure skating
Free ice dance gold medal (Sportsnet).
8:45 p.m.: Men's curling
Germany vs. Britain (TSN).

TIMES MAY CHANGE

On the web

- Up-to-date medal standings and results
- Complete day-by-day event schedule
- Vancouver managing editor Fernando Carneiro's daily column (metronews.ca/columns)
- Metro-Blenz News Squad on-the-ground blog

Visit metronews.ca for more Games coverage.

Canadians hold their own among boisterous fans

SUPPORT The crazy German guy with the noisemaker whirling above his head on the Whistler Village stroll turns many heads.

So does the herd of phlegmatic Swiss fans, gonging and bonging a trail through the crowds wielding cowbells the size of accordions in honour of their men's downhill gold.

The Latvians are few but steadfast, howling with national pride and waving maroon flags like matadors taunting bulls, whether at the hockey rink or the luge run.

And the egalitarian Dutch, standing out in their trademark orange, pride themselves as equal-opportunity supporters, roaring for all and sundry at the speedskating oval in Richmond.

But for sheer, unadulterated exuberance, Canadian fans are working the home field advantage at the 2010 Winter Games and running away with the unofficial Olympic title of brazenest boosters.

When Jon Montgomery, the flame-haired auctioneer from Russell, Man., won the gold medal in skeleton Friday night in Whistler, spontaneous renditions of O Canada burst out repeatedly along the village stroll.

Team Canada hockey jerseys and Canadian flags are everywhere.

"I love you, man. I love you," bawled young Canadian fans when Montgomery walked through the village throngs on the way to a TV interview — and these were the men.

Canadian fans at the Whistler Sliding Centre have appeared shirtless or in sports bras, despite the sub-zero temperatures on the mountain.

And they even cheered Briton Amy Williams' gold in skeleton at a Saturday night medals ceremony in Whistler, notwithstanding the British media's scathing assessment of the Games' organization.

At the Pacific Coliseum, home to short-track speedskating, the roar of the crowd grew like an approaching jetliner as skaters completed each lap at breakneck speeds Saturday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dutch cheer

- At the Richmond Oval, Arjan Degroot said Dutch fans just love the sport. "They're rowdy, they cheer for every skater, Dutch or no Dutch, they cheer for everyone," said Degroot, 42. "But for the Dutch, more."

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Sidney Crosby absorbs a hit from Brooks Orpik of the U.S. yesterday at Canada Hockey Place.

Canada stunned

Loss to U.S. makes road to gold tougher

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

We had patriotism on our side, but in the end patriotism wasn't enough as the United States beat Canada 5–3 last night after three nail biting periods at Canada Hockey Place.

Now what seemed like sure-fire thing — a guaranteed spot in the quarter-finals, is up in the air and Canada will have to beat Germany then Russia in the quarterfinals on its quest for gold.

It was part hockey game, part rock concert at the start of the first period as people danced in the aisles to Tragically Hip songs while red and white beach balls bounced through the sea of red.

But the Americans got an early advantage when Brian Rafalski scored while the crowd was still chanting "Go Canada Go!" from the puck drop.

Canada's first goal, scored by Eric Staal at the nine-minute mark, was answered seconds later with another goal by Rafalski, and from there Canada struggled to keep up despite out-shooting the United States 45 to 23.

American goaltender Ryan Miller seemed unbeatable while Canada's Martin Brodeur let in a handful of questionable goals.

Sidney Crosby gave Canadians momentary hope when he scored with three minutes left in the game bringing the score to 4–3, but an empty net goal by the Canucks' Ryan Kesler sealed Canada's fate.

"Obviously I'm disappointed," Canada's head coach Mike Babcock said, adding the Americans capitalized on his team's lapses in goaltending and defense.

"In the end, when we made mistakes, (the mistakes) ended up in our net," he said.

"We've just chosen a longer route to where we want to go."

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PEOPLE POWERED

Martin clinches first place in round robin

CURLING Canada's Kevin Martin has clinched first place in the men's curling round robin with his seventh win in a row at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Martin remains the only undefeated skip in the tournament.

He controlled his game against Markus Eggler of Switzerland from the start, scoring two points in the first and seventh ends en route to a 6-4 victory.

Norway's Thomas Ulsrud lost 8-7 in an extra end to Sweden, giving Martin first place in the round robin and a berth in the semifinal.

Norway's record fell to 5-2. Switzerland, Sweden and Britain follow with 4-3 records.

David Murdoch, the defending world champion from Britain, dumped the United States 4-2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bernard

- Canadian curler Cheryl Bernard has won her fifth straight game. Bernard made an open draw for four in the third end against American Debbie McCormick and never looked back on her way to a 9-2 win yesterday.

VANCOUVER GAMES

MedalCount

NATION				TOTAL
U.S.	7	7	10	24
Germany	6	7	5	18
Norway	5	3	4	12
Canada	4	4	1	9
South Korea	4	4	1	9
Austria	2	3	3	8
Russia	2	3	3	8
France	2	2	4	8
Switzerland	5	0	2	7
Sweden	3	1	2	6
China	3	1	1	5
Netherlands	3	1	1	5
Poland	0	3	1	4
Italy	0	1	3	4
Slovakia	1	1	1	3
Czech Republic	1	0	2	3

South Korea's Yu-na to skate 23rd in short program

Olympic favourite Kim Yu-na of South Korea will skate 23rd out of 30 competitors in tomorrow's women's figure skating short program at the Vancouver Games. The reigning world champion will go one spot after her main rival, Japan's Mao Asada, the 2008 world gold medallist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's figure skater Joannie Rochette skates during a practice yesterday. She learned earlier that her mother had died.

Tragedy strikes Olympian

Mother of figure skater Joannie Rochette dies

Tragedy has struck the Vancouver Olympics again, this time delivering a body blow to the Canadian team.

Skate Canada officials said yesterday that Therese Rochette, mother of figure skater Joannie Rochette, died overnight in Vancouver General Hospital after suffering a heart attack.

The 24-year-old decided to compete as planned in the Olympics, and sought comfort in the place she knows the best — the rink.

"For Joannie, I think being able to stick with her plan of practising and competing is giving her some stability and some things that are planned in her life, which obviously is otherwise a very uncertain time for her," William Thompson, Skate Canada's CEO, said after Rochette's practice.

"She's going to get the support of many, many Canadians in the toughest time of her life." Nathalie Lambert, chef de mission

"To be honest, I wasn't surprised to see her training well, she's a very well-trained high-performance athlete and the muscle memory kicks in and she does what she needs to do."

Rochette was the last of five skaters on the ice for yesterday's practice. Dressed in black tights and a coral tank top, she flashed a quick smile to her father Normand, who sat in the stands surrounded by five family friends, who were dabbing at tears.

"She may change her mind and that's fine, too," chef de mission Nathalie Lambert said. "I think she owes it to herself to go on that ice, to have no regrets and fulfil that dream that she had.

"She's going to get the support of many, many Canadians in the toughest time of her life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Groves becomes first Canadian multi-medallist in Vancouver after earning speedskating silver

SPEEDSKATING Long-track speedskater Kristina Groves has her second medal of the Vancouver Olympics, winning silver in the women's 1,500 metres yesterday.

The 33-year-old from Ottawa finished in one minute 57.14 seconds. She was on track for gold until she ran out of steam on the final lap. Dutchwoman Ireen Wust won gold in 1:56.89.

"I'm happy with the result obviously, but to be honest with you I really wanted to win, it was really close," she told CTV. "I just kind of faded on that last turn."

Czech Martina Sablikova took the bronze in 1:57.96.

Groves also won a bronze in the 3,000 metres earlier in the Games. She's Canada's first multi-medallist in Vancouver. When she received her medal on the podium at the Richmond Oval, Groves' eyes filled with tears.

"I'm glad I got a silver, but I'm a little disappointed with how I skated," she said.

"It wasn't my best race and irrespective of the results, that's where I draw my satisfaction from at any race or any competition, how I skated."

Groves said she felt better in the 3,000.

"I skated better technically and physiologically I was definitely a lot better in that race," she said.

Canadian teammate Christine Nesbitt seemed headed to the podium before fading down the stretch. She finished sixth in 1:58.33.

The London, Ont., native won the gold in the 1,000 on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

Kristina Groves of Canada, right, celebrates winning silver, Ireen Wust of Netherlands gold, centre, and Martina Sablikova of Czech Republic bronze during the medal ceremony for the women's 1500-metre speedskating yesterday.

Virtue and Moir on pace for gold after rousing ice dance

FIRST PLACE Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir kept Canada's first Olympic gold medal in ice dancing firmly within their grasp yesterday, moving into first place overall with an inspired performance in the original dance.

Virtue, from London, Ont., and Moir, from Ilderton, Ont., second after Friday's compulsory dance, scored 68.41 for their Spanish flamenco set to guitar song Farrucas. Virtue wore a dazzling dress with black-sequined bodice and flowing satin skirt, while Moir had on the typical Flamenco dancer's outfit of ruffled white shirt, vest and pants.

They eschewed props such as castanets and fans, punctuating the fiery performance with claps and even some skate stomps. Their enthusiasm was matched by the electric crowd at the Pacific Coliseum.

"You're in this rink ... that moment, we'll never forget for the rest of our life. I don't think a piece of metal around my neck is going to make it any better," Moir said. "We're going to go out there (today), create another moment, and just enjoy it." Their leading combined score now sits at 111.15, and they move on to the third performance — the free dance — today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games in brief

MEDALS Canada can still Own the Podium. That's the message Canadian team officials sent yesterday in their assessment of the host team's performance over the first half of the Vancouver Olympics, although with perhaps less bravado than a week earlier. "The U.S. is making it very tough to achieve the goal we set out for ourselves, but that's still our goal to be first in medal count," Canadian Olympic Committee president Michael Chambers said at the briefing. "This may have been the U.S. week. The week coming up will be Canada's week. You'll see that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Field**of**Play

Scott Russell

Win or lose, Canadian athletes live by their own golden rule. Read Scott Russell at www.metronews.ca.

Canada blanked in medal hunt at ski cross event

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

SKI CROSS The past couple of days have been as up and down as the jumps and rolls of the ski cross course at Cypress that Canadian Davey Barr cruised down yesterday on way to a sixth-place finish in the sport's Olympic debut.

"It's been a little busy," said Barr, who was named to Canada's ski cross team around 1 p.m. Saturday, after his teammate Brady Leman re-injured his leg while training at Cypress.

Leman himself had only been added to the team on Friday after another teammate, David Duncan, broke his collarbone during the training.

"I was actually testing some skis for the rest of the team and watching across the valley at them training, just dying to get on the course," said Barr.

Barr's progress

- Davey Barr was 25th in qualifying and slugged through the round of 16 and the quarter-finals. He finished third in his semifinal heat and was second in the small final, good for sixth overall.

Canada, which swept the ski-cross podium at the 2010 X Games, was blanked at Cypress.

Swiss skier Michael Schmid captured the gold, while Austrian Andreas Matt took silver and Norway's Audun Groenvold the bronze.

Canadian Christopher Delbosco, who was one of the favourites, came fourth after a spectacular crash in the final.

He looked good for bronze, but lost control as he launched off a jump and landed hard on his back about 50 metres from the finish.

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British writing academy to open in Toronto
British literary house Faber & Faber is planning to establish a creative writing school in Canada. Expected to open in October, the Faber Academy Toronto will offer a selection of long and short fiction and poetry courses, with notable Canadian writers serving as instructors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Olympic spirit winning out at work

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. That seems to be the attitude of some employers across Canada who are encouraging staffers to get into the Olympic spirit. Rather than scold employees for live streaming Olympic events while they should be working, some see it as an opportunity for team building. Accounting firm Ernst and Young has established viewing areas in all its offices and staff are urged to get involved in a variety of Olympic-themed contests and pools. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Using a love of food for your job

OddJobs
Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

STACEY KINKAID PHOTO
Sita Kacker has one refined taste palate.

Sita Kacker grew up eating shepherd's pie, poutine, curry and pineapple upside down cake.

That's what happens when you come from Indian heritage and grow up in England, Montreal and Oakville, Ont.

Being exposed to all this food diversity eventually influenced Kacker's career choice, but as a young person she wanted to become a doctor.

Kacker, now 32, studied nutrition and nutritional sciences at the University of Guelph, and followed it with a master's in human philosophy and nutrition, thinking she'd go to medical school.

But then she took a course in product development as part of her degree. "This is exactly what I want to do with the rest of my life," she thought at the time.

A friend working in the food industry hooked Kacker up with her first job after graduation. She helped a small gourmet food company develop things like tapenades and flavoured oils for high-end food stores.

Two years later, she got a job interview at Loblaw's — where Kacker dreamed of working. It was an intensive interview process that included tastings to assess her palate. She got hired in 2005 and is still with the company.

Kacker has worked on a number of different food categories over the last five years.

"Now I have the best category," she says, creating frozen entrees, pizza, frozen fruits and vegetables, ice cream and beer.

Kacker works on a team with a product manager and a quality assurance expert. The food development process starts with an idea, which can come from the numerous books and magazines she reads, other retailers, eating out, Loblaw's customers, staff and the manufacturers the company works with. And travel: Kacker recently went to Mexico to taste authentic local cuisine and to London to check out packaged foods.

After an idea is proposed and gets basic approval, Kacker starts cooking, either in the test kitchen or with staff at a food manufacturer's plant. She'll create numerous versions of the dish and share them with the company's other product development teams during daily tasting sessions. (If she works on anything Indian she'll often pass it by her mom to make sure it tastes authentic.)

When the team gives its okay, Kacker will take her recipe to the factory and they'll do a pilot run of a large batch. When a product makes it this far and is ready for production, staff that deal with packaging and marketing take over.

And then, for Kacker, it's on to the next great food idea.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Product developer
Salary: Not available
Education/training: A background in either food science or culinary arts, ideally both
Best Part of the Job: "The food. Just tasting and eating. And travelling and being exposed to different cultures."
Worst Part of the Job: "Cleaning out my freezer at work."

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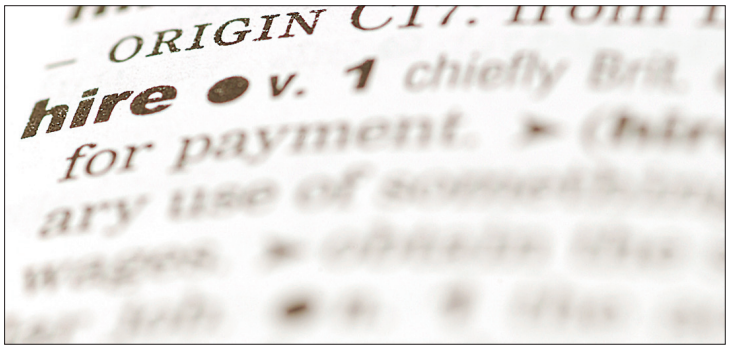
THE HOME DEPOT

A. The hammer on the left.

Durham College to discontinue mandatory laptop lease
After hearing from students in its mobile learning program, Durham College has decided to let them shop around for the own laptop computers this fall. Currently, the college operates a mandatory laptop lease program for students in the program. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Laid-off workers find their way back to work

More than half (58 per cent) of the employees laid off in the last 12 months continue to be resilient in their job searches and have secured new positions.



According to an updated survey by CareerBuilder, 51 per cent of workers who were laid off from full-time jobs in the last 12 months have found new full-time positions, up from 48 per cent in June 2009.

"Despite one of the most competitive job markets in decades, nine-in-10 workers say they have not given up on their job searches, and the amount of workers who have found work is evidence that their drive and determination are paying off," said Brent Rasmussen, President of CareerBuilder North America. "The number of laid-off workers who have found new full-time and part-time jobs rose in the last six months. Although this good news reflects a healing economy, it also shows that job seekers are exploring career options in new industries."

Changes in Pay

Looking at workers who were laid off in the last 12 months and found new jobs, 61 per cent reported they were able to negotiate comparable or higher pay for their new position. Thirty-nine per cent of workers took a pay cut.

Transferring Skills

Workers reported they are applying their skills to new areas. More than half (51 per cent) of workers who were laid off in the last 12 months and landed new jobs said they found work in a different field than where they were previously employed, with a third having said they really enjoy their new positions.

Starting a Business

An increased number of job seekers have adopted an "if you can't find a job, create one" way of thinking. Nearly three-in-10 workers (29 per cent) who have not found jobs are considering starting their own business, on par with findings from the June survey. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employers share top staffing challenges

While hopeful economic news has some companies breathing a cautious sigh of relief when it comes to headcounts, others continue to face staffing challenges.

According to a new survey, being able to provide competitive compensation (34 per cent), maintaining productivity levels (33 per cent) and being able to retain top talent (31 per cent) are organizations' top staffing concerns this year. In addition to salary and productivity, a variety of retention issues are worrying some organizations this year as they try to maintain staff levels in the recession rebound.

When asked how they will hold on to top talent this year, employers reported the following:

- Offering more flexible work arrangements;
- Investing more in training;
- Promising future benefits and raises;
- Offering more performance-based incentives;
- Providing higher salary and/or title;

"Retention is one area that companies will need to address to maintain and grow their businesses this year."
CareerBuilder's Jason Ferrara

"Retention is one area that companies will need to address to maintain and grow their businesses this year," said Jason Ferrara, vice president of corporate marketing for CareerBuilder. "Having the right people on board is a top concern. Our survey found that forty per cent of companies are concerned about top workers leaving their organization in 2010 and that nearly one-in-five think morale at their company is poor. At the same time, companies have their eyes on future hiring challenges, especially as the economy moves into recovery."
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology in brief

MCMASTER CONSIDERS DISCONTINUING ART HISTORY DEGREE McMaster University could soon phase out its art history degree program as the institution considers a new proposal suggesting a better use of resources by integrating its studio art program with art history and opening it to more students through new bachelor and master of fine arts degrees. McMaster's humanities dean says the art history program has been struggling for some time — only seven students chose the speciality this year. Although the proposal has yet to be approved, the notion of phasing out the degree is causing an uproar among art history students, who are campaigning to save their program.

GEORGE WASHINGTON U. MISTAKENLY SENDS ACCEPTANCE NOTICES TO REJECTED APPLICANTS Last week, about 200 students seeking early-decision admission to George Washington University received an e-mail notifying them of their acceptance, only to receive word several hours later that the e-mail was sent by mistake and they were actually rejected. The university says the incident was a clerical mistake. There have been recent incidents of admission errors, such as at the University of Exeter, UC San Diego, and Northwestern University.

$20-MILLION FUNDING CUT COULD MEAN LAYOFFS, FEWER STUDENTS AT UALBERTA Having been trying to balance a projected $59 million shortfall since last fall, the University of Alberta was handed an additional $20 million shortfall when the provincial government cut funding targeting new and growing programs in last week's budget, a move the university's provost says will likely mean staff layoffs and fewer students on campus next year.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nova Scotia anticipates labour shortage by 2014
Addressing the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on last week, Nova Scotia Labour Minister Marilyn More, who also holds the education portfolio, stated the province's labour force is expected to shrink by 18,500 jobs by 2014. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shy? It's not the end of the world

SYLVIA PUTZ
for Metro Canada

Do you fret that your introverted personality will not help you land in the top contender list at job interviews? Or, that you will not be identified as a candidate for promotion because you just can't seem to make yourself heard?

You may have reason to worry.

While being introverted is simply a way of being for about a third of the population in this country, introverts do have to work a little harder to get recognized for their achievements.

"The talents and strengths of an introvert are more hidden. They don't tend to showcase themselves so they are more likely to get overlooked," explains Carole Cameron, human resources specialist and author of Splash: An Introvert's Guide to being Seen, Heard and Remembered. "The talents and strengths of an extrovert are on the outside, so they are more easily recognized and rewarded," she adds.

Because body language plays such a big role in job interviews and talking about yourself can be very hard for introverts, Carole Cameron advises introverts to try and appear more assured.

And that can lead to frustration. "Introverts can feel like they're missing out on great stuff just because they haven't engaged enough — their good stuff isn't out there enough for people to notice."

Cameron describes herself as an introvert. She understands the frustration of having great ideas but not being able to come across during meetings and interviews. "I felt totally invisible," she says.

But there is hope. Cameron's own experience led her to write her book, which lays out a path for introverts "to make a splash, to be heard, to be remembered, to be visible."

Especially during interviews, body language is extremely important, she says. Introverts are uncomfortable talking about themselves, and it shows. Get feedback from friends and family on how to appear more assured, or videotape and watch yourself and purposefully focus on changing the impression you make.

To appear more confident, make it your mission to smile, make eye contact, sit up straight, keep your hands from fiddling, and finally, practise that firm handshake.

As an introvert who does not take naturally to casual "off the cuff" types of conversations, make sure you formulate and practise in advance the answers to anticipated interview questions or crucial points of a conversation with the boss.

To be memorable during an interview, wear something distinctive (but tasteful) that the interviewer is likely to make note of — a beautiful handbag or briefcase, a bright red scarf, or an unusual piece of jewelry. Or tell the interviewer something interesting about yourself, something likely to make a connection.

Also keep in mind that networking is the most likely avenue for finding work. Search for strategies to make networking work for you, such as volunteering at conventions.

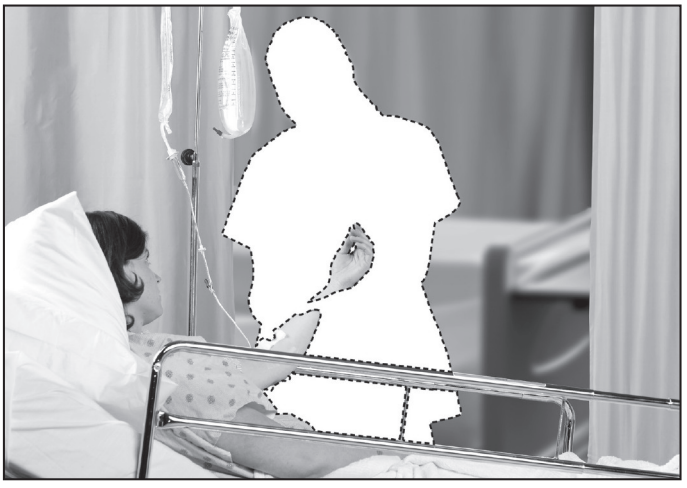
And once you are hired, make sure the bosses know about all the wonderful things you do at work. For example, send a friendly weekly e-mail outlining status and achievements.

And if you end up in a meeting, accept the reality that introverts can easily get drowned out in the chatter of the extrovert majority. It's best to identify the points you wish to make and concentrate on delivering them succinctly and with confidence.

Are you an Introvert?

- One distinguishing characteristic of introverts is that, even though they can "switch" on during social events and have a good time, they expend energy socializing and must recharge afterwards, by being alone or doing a solitary activity. Lots of chatting can exhaust them.
- Extroverts, by comparison, become energized by being with other people and don't like being solitary most of the time. They like to talk, often at length and in great detail, and "think out loud" to explore and develop ideas or solutions.

YOU HAVE THE SKILLS. PUT THEM TO WORK IN CANADA.



The Government of Canada's new Foreign Credentials Referral Office helps newcomers who are looking to put their skills to work in Canada. The federal government has reached an unprecedented agreement with the provinces and territories to speed up the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications.

Get information on how to put your training and knowledge to work at:

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Canada

Growing Pains star gone missing

Police and worried loved ones are searching for actor Andrew Koenig, best known for playing Boner on Growing Pains, who went missing in Vancouver a week ago, popeater.com Koenig, 42, has recently been working as a camera operator on the comedy podcast, Never Not Funny. METRO WORLD NEWS

Entertainment

Getting hitched

Hilary Duff is ready to tie the knot. The singer and actress has accepted a proposal from Edmonton Oiler player Mike Comrie while on vacation in Hawaii, according to Gatecrasher. METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Hurt Locker trumps Avatar to win top British film prize

Bigelow

Iraq war drama The Hurt Locker took home six prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards in London last night.

Kathryn Bigelow won the best director prize for the film, beating nominees that included her former husband, Avatar director James Cameron.

The Hurt Locker also won prizes for original screenplay, cinematography, editing and sound. Avatar picked up awards for production design and visual effects.

Avatar and The Hurt Locker both went into the awards with nominations in eight categories, including best picture.

The awards, known as BAFTAs, are considered an important indicator of likely Oscar success. Austrian actor Christoph Waltz, already a hot Oscar favourite, won the supporting actor prize for his turn as a chilling, charming Nazi colonel in Inglourious Basterds. The supporting actress award went to Mo'nique for Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comedy Campaign

Fred Ewanuick stumps for new show Dan For Mayor

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Fred Ewanuick says being the star of a new comedy series is hard work — something he mostly avoided in the past.

"I think I really underestimated the work load," laughs Ewanuick, best known as Corner Gas' lovable schlub Hank.

"On Corner Gas, I'd work three days a week maybe and just shoot a couple scenes a day. This is every day, all day. Not that I'm complaining, but it was a bit of a shock."

Ewanuick's extra effort has resulted in the comedy Dan For Mayor. In it, the actor plays Dan Phillips, a nice guy bartender who impulsively decides to run for mayor to prove to his ex-girlfriend he's not a loser.

The decision sets in motion an election campaign filled with mishaps and mistakes as Dan finds himself in the public eye and way over his head.

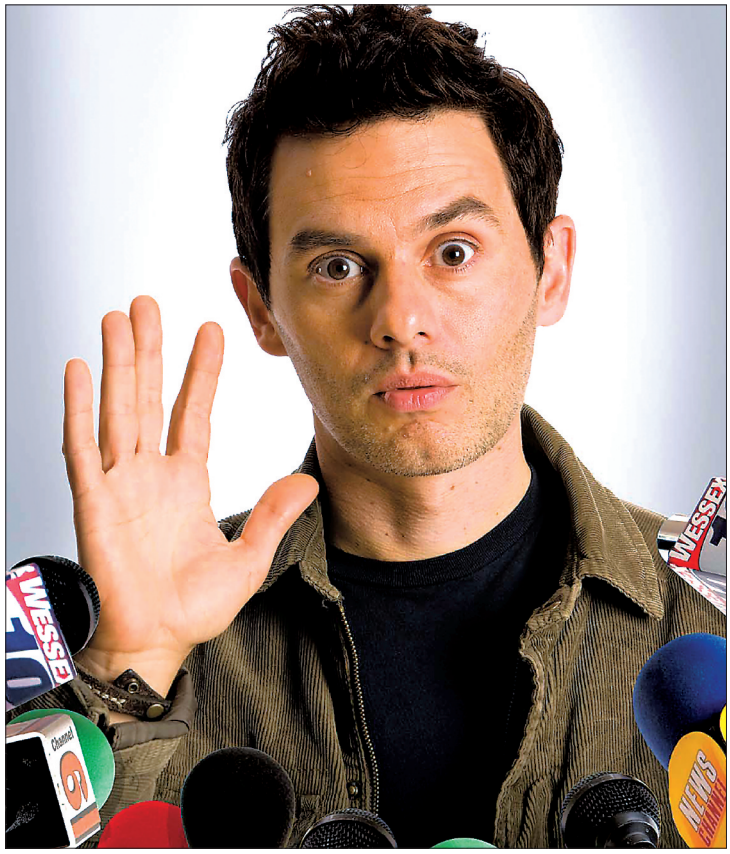
Created by the well-known writing trio of Mark Farrell, Paul Mather and Kevin White, one assumes Dan For Mayor will conclude with the season-ending election of Dan. Or will it?

"Well, I'm not saying," laughs Ewanuick. "But I think it's safe to that you can't just have the character constantly running for mayor every year. So something is going to happen eventually. But I can't say what."

Though it's not a big acting stretch from Corner Gas' Hank to his Dan For Mayor character, Ewanuick sees a few differences.

"Well, Dan is definitely brighter than Hank. He's just this guy who has no direction. And has reached that point where he's starting to wonder what he's going to do with his life. Sort of like my life."

Dan For Mayor premieres March 1 on CTV



Fred Ewanuick launches a campaign to impress his ex-girlfriend in Dan For Mayor.

"(Dan's) just this guy who has no direction. And has reached that point where he's starting to wonder what he's going to do with his life. Sort of like my life." Fred Ewanuick

As excited as he is about Dan For Mayor's premiere, Ewanuick is more thrilled by his current gig as host of the Olympics' nightly victory ceremonies in Whistler.

"It's been just great. The atmosphere is incredible here," he says.

"The only problem is I'm on stage at the same time as the (Canadian) hockey games. But I'm free the night of the gold medal game, so if Canada is in it, I'll be there screaming."

TV star charged for un-*Heroic* behaviour

Heroes actor Adrian Pasdar has officially been charged with DUI following his arrest last month in L.A., TMZ reports. POPEATER.COM

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 21 at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Shutter Island:** $40.2 million US
2. **Valentine's Day:** $17.2 million
3. **Avatar:** $16.1 million
4. **Percy Jackson & the Olympians:** $9.8 million
5. **The Wolfman:** $9.8 million
6. **Dear John:** $7.3 million
7. **The Tooth Fairy:** $4.5 million
8. **Crazy Heart** $3 million
9. **From Paris With Love:** $2.5 million
10. **Edge of Darkness:** $2.2 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackson dad awarded MJ's medical records

Michael Jackson's father can receive some medical records related to his superstar son's death, a judge ruled Friday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff ruled that Joe Jackson can receive his son's medical records from the hospital where he died. The judge will review the records first before releasing them to Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman. Beckloff also said the men can only receive records generated on or after June 25 — the day Michael Jackson died at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Oxman sought the files as part of an effort to obtain a monthly stipend for the Jackson family patriarch.

He said during a hearing last week that he also needs the records to decide whether to pursue a wrongful death lawsuit.

Beckloff's order states a medical expert hired by Joe Jackson can review the files, but not copy them. Anyone who sees the records will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, the ruling states.

Joe Jackson appears at the BET Awards three days after son Michael's death. A judge has ruled that he can receive Michael's medical records from the hospital where he died June 25, 2009.

Jackson's estate had sought to quash subpoenas that Oxman issued for the files.

Attorneys for the estate argued during a hearing last week that Beckloff should review the files first.

They also stated the files shouldn't be released until after the results of a May hearing on Joe Jackson's stipend bid.

Oxman said he was pleased with the ruling and expects to have the records soon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Cold Blood		House (HDTV PA)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		News Hour
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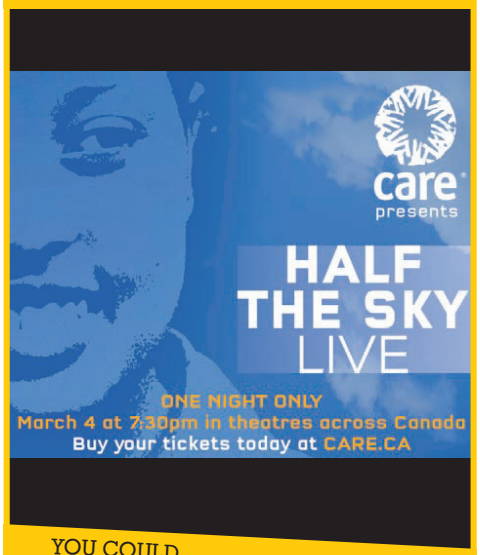
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	Scorpion	Scorpion	The Next Star		Fries That?	Prank Patrol	Family Biz
	557	541 39 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	555	545 67 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
cable variety	575	583 11 CMT	According-Jim	According-Jim	*The Man in the Moon* ★★ (1991, Drama) Sam Waterston, Gail Strickland.					*The Man in the Moon* (1991)	
	553	546 17 TREE	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Go, Diego, Go!
	505	398 19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568 23 W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		How Clean Is	How Clean	Love It or List It "Gallagher"		Love It-List It
	521	560 24 TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Ultimate Cake Off (N)		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Ultimate Cake
	603	561 25 FOOD	Top Chef Masters		Pitchin' In	Glutton	Restaurant Makeover		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Top Chef
	615	520 26 A&E	Intervention "Rob"		Hoarders "Deborah; Jim"		Paranormal	Paranormal	(10:01) Intervention		Intervention
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*XIII* (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer, Stephen McHattie.				Bones
	601	562 33 SLICE	Tori & Dean: Home		Love Inc.	Love Inc.	ET Canada	What Happen?	Real Housewives of New York		Housewives
	-	633 34 ENC2	Miss Spider	(7:20) *Red Hot* ★★ (1993, Drama)			*Seems Like Old Times* ★★★ (1980)			(10:45) *Mrs. Winterbourne*	
	520	505 35 DISC	Breaking Point (N)		Dirty Jobs Leeches.		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs
	620	523 36 BRAVO	Straight Shooter: The Mamas & the Papas			Très Portugal	Law & Order "Encore"		Without a Trace		*East Is East*
	294	650 40 WPCH	Monica: Still	Monica: Still	Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	Law & Order: Special Victims		*Varsity Blues* ★★ (1999, Comedy-Drama)		
	626	547 41 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
	-	539 42 TCM	*Five Graves*	(7:45) *The Fighting Sullivans* (1944, Docudrama)				(9:45) *It Happened One Night* ★★★★ (1934)			
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*The Last Boy Scout* ★★★ (1991, Action) Bruce Willis, Chelsea Field.					Blue Mountain	Blue Mountain	Blue Mountain	CSI: Crime Scn
	522	516 45 HIST	Underground War		Underground War		Greatest Tank Battles		Lost Worlds (HDTV)		Shockwave
	627	528 46 SPACE	*Dragon Dynasty* (2006, Adventure) Federico Castelluccio.				Stormworld	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.	
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks.				*Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.				
	619	525 49 TROP	Carlawood	Prod. Parker	Re-Vamped		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Flipping Out		Launch/Line
	600	564 50 HGTV	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Marriage	Income Prop.	For Rent
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	504	508 70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Business News	Berman's Call	Market Call Tonight		Headline	MoneyTalk	Squeeze Play
	526	507 92 VIVA	The Closer "Borderline"		Cold Case		Mediums	Ghostly Enc.	Judging Amy		Missing
	269	350 93 APTN	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)			Jeux olympiques d'hiver: Vancouver 2010 Curling, hommes. Curling, hommes.					The Journey
	-	- 94 MCP	World News	News	My Queen	Immortal Yi, So	Lying Low		Simply the	Pinoy Buzz	Orient
	571	581 100 MMM	mmtop10.ca		Behind the Music		Gene Simmons	Wild 'n Out	Behind the Music		Gene Simmons
	570	580 101 MM	America's Best	Video on Trial	MOD Live at the Base		Vancouver 2010 Concert		Secret Life of American Teen		My Date With...
	581	566 102 MTV	Life of Ryan	Buried	Buried	Life of Ryan	MTV Live	Sex, News-Roll	The Real World		Buried
	-	- 116 TV5	Blancs de mémoire		Voyageur	Urbania	TV5 Le Journal	A Table	Rélais	(10:35) L'École nomade	

CLUB METRO WEEKLY OFFERS



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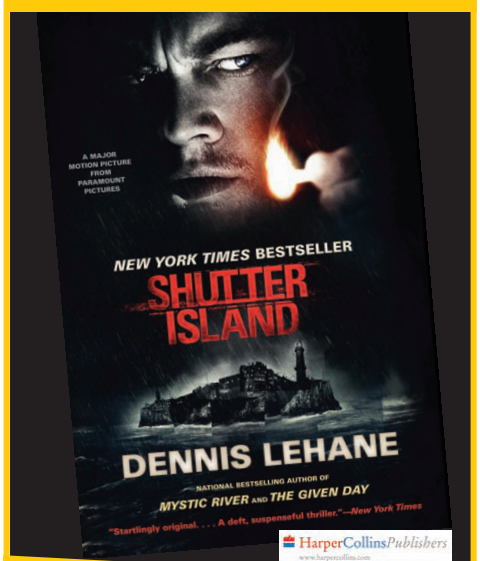

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So this werewolf and this poorly-written female character walk into the Oscars...
Kristen Stewart will be attending the Academy Awards next month with a Twilight co-star on her arm, but it won't be Robert Pattinson. "Me and Taylor (Lautner) are going to present." METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Hilton birthday bash ends in tears, smiles

HER ENTIRE EMOTIONAL RANGE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO EXHAUSTING FOR HER Paris Hilton's 29th birthday party was thrown into chaos when her boyfriend Doug Reinhardt got into a fight with her pal Brandon Davis, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Onlookers were stunned after the heiress and former The Hills star Reinhardt began arguing in the middle of New York hot spot Tea Room on Thursday. A furious Hilton walked off, and moments later Reinhardt was at the centre of another screaming match with oil heir Brandon Davis, who was once romantically linked to the socialite.

Reinhardt was said to have been angry after Davis arrived unexpectedly and appeared to be inebriated, according to The New York Post.

A source tells the publication, "One minute, Paris and Doug were looking all loved up; the next minute, they started bickering. Doug didn't seem happy about all the attention she was getting. Paris started to pout and gave him some girly punches in the back before storming off.

"The next minute, Doug was shouting at Brandon. The music was so loud that we couldn't hear what he was saying, but he then got Brandon thrown out of the door."

But the birthday girl patched things up with her boyfriend and ended the night with a smile on her face.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-Pumpkin dishes on Jessica romance

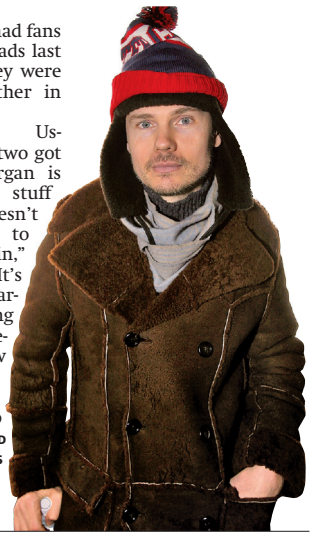
'IT'S LIKE BEING IN A CARTOON': PERHAPS THE MOST APT DESCRIPTION FOR DATING JESSICA SIMPSON ON RECORD Billy Corgan has finally broken his silence about his relationship with Jessica Simpson, us-magazine.com reports.

"She asked me to help her out on the theme song for her new TV show (VH1's The Price of Beauty)," the Smashing Pumpkins frontman, 42, tells the Chicago Tribune. "(The show) has an interesting concept. She goes around the world to show how different people perceive beauty. In some cultures, bigger is better. In some, smaller is better. It's interesting."

The odd couple had fans scratching their heads last December after they were first spotted together in New York City.

Sources tell Us-Magazine.com the two got romantic, but Corgan is playing coy. "The stuff that I've seen doesn't have any bearing to the reality that I'm in," he tells the paper. "It's like being in a cartoon. It has nothing to do with what's really going on or how I feel."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jay-Z longs to work with Allen

WE DON'T GET IT EITHER Rapper Jay-Z has collaborated with a long list of artists, but there's one out there he still wants to work with: Lily Allen.

"I'm trying to get her," he tells BBC Radio. "Hopefully that goes through. I bum-rushed them in the corner where they can't say no. I've collaborated with so many artists. It's pressure because on the days when they don't come out I have to over-perform.'"

METRO WORLD NEWS

Kourtney denies media rumours ... to the media

I'VE SET UP THESE MULTIPLE PHOTO OPS TO TELL YOU ALL TO LEAVE US ALONE With one smooch (and then another and another) in Vegas on Friday, Kourtney Kardashian and boyfriend Scott Disick put to rest rumours of the couple's demise, people.com reports.

The pair has been under fire since reports surfaced that Disick, the father of Kardashian's nine-week-old son, Mason, had been unfaithful. The rumours, Kardashian said, couldn't be further from the truth.

When asked if she is laughing off the rumors, she told People, "Yes, of course. You can't take it too seriously.

"Scott is my partner and we do everything together," she added.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

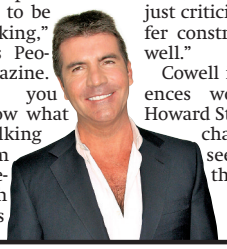
Cowell: I've left big shoes to fill on American Idol

AND LOTS OF TIGHT BLACK T-SHIRTS Simon Cowell may be departing the judges' table on American Idol, but he's not going to let just anyone replace him.

"You have to be good looking," Cowell tells People magazine. "Secondly, you have to know what you're talking about. I'm starting to realize with these shows that you have to put people on that actually know what they're talking about. Rather than guessing, they really have to have experience, so that you cannot just criticize — you can offer constructive advice as well."

Cowell is also sure audiences won't be seeing Howard Stern sitting in his chair: "He doesn't seem to fit any of the criteria."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Justin wants to look like Mick Jagger

AS LONG AS HIS CURRENT STYLE GETS KICKED TO THE CURB Justin Timberlake's fashion inspiration is Mick Jagger, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who launched his latest collection for fashion house William Rast at New York Fashion Week last Tuesday — is a huge fan of the Rolling Stones legend's style and based a lot of his designs on him.

"I think since the beginning of rock 'n' roll, people have wanted to dress like rock stars," he told MTV. "I still find old Mick Jagger jackets that I wish I could pull out of his closet or something. Of course, they wouldn't fit me. Very tight."

METRO WORLD NEWS

CelebTweets

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

LANCE ARMSTRONG unwittingly calls the police, **DIABLO CODY**'s parents are starstruck, and **DAVID SPADE** is thinking of the public good.

@lancearmstrong: Cops @ house. Some1 dialed 911. After interrogating the kids we figured out yours truly misdialed

@diablocody: My parents just saw Ian Ziering at the Griddle. This will make their annual Christmas letter for sure.

@davidspade: i think cell phones should come with a breathalizer attachment. especially after 10 pm. theres some stupid regrettable calls going down.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sean has another paparazzi tantrum

SOMEONE PUT HIM IN HIS PLAY-PENN Sean Penn's temper has gotten him into trouble once again. The Oscar-winning actor was charged with battery and vandalism last week for allegedly attacking a photographer and breaking his camera outside a restaurant and shop in Brentwood, Calif., in October, according to Hollyscoop.

Penn was charged with two misdemeanors and could face up to 18 months in prison.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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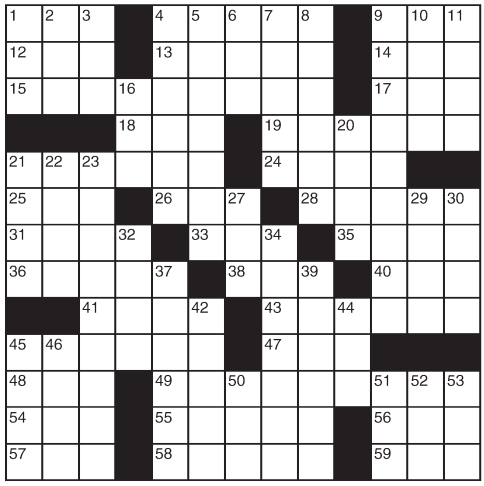
Tuesday Morning clouds 2 C / -9 C
Wednesday Mostly cloudy 5 C / -6 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



ACROSS
1 Luau souvenir
4 Homer Simpson's wife
9 Ernesto Guevara
12 Skill
13 Declined a restaurant offer
14 Scarlet
15 Puzzle such as this one
17 Raw mineral
18 Environmentally friendly
19 Textbook section
21 Societal subdivision
24 Snead and Spade
25 "— Town"
26 Recipe meas.
28 Not urban
31 Incite
33 Scot's hat
35 Colour quality
36 Watered (down)
38 Sweet potato
40 — glance
41 Bed-frame piece
43 Sore
45 Make improvements
47 Equal (Prefix)
48 Clay, today
49 Second-ary conversation
54 Automobile
55 Obliterate
56 Roman 3
57 Compass dir.
58 Bank repositories
59 Started

DOWN
1 Varnish ingredient
2 Blunder
3 Judge Lance
4 Cos-tumed one at an arena
5 If all else fails
6 Old Oldsmobile
7 The Dionne Quintuplets, e.g.
8 Ingratiate
9 Intersection
10 Medal earner
11 Paradise
16 Collection
20 Pornography
21 Second-year student
22 Franc replacement
23 Bygone CNN series
27 Salary
29 Initial stake
30 Cordelia's father
32 Sandwich shop
34 "Woman With the Hat" painter
37 Takes to the floor
39 Disarrays
42 — cotta
44 "To be or — ..."
45 "The Amazing —"
46 Verve
50 Lummox
51 Have a bug
52 Tell a tale
53 Tease

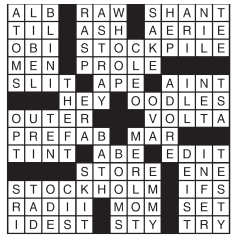
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2	5						7	4
			9		2			
9		3				8		2
		8	1		9	4		
	6						3	
		9	6		5	2		
1		5				3		7
			4		7			
8	9						4	6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	3	6	5	7	9	1	2	4
7	4	9	1	8	2	6	5	3
1	2	5	6	3	4	9	7	8
6	9	8	3	5	7	4	1	2
3	5	2	4	6	1	8	9	7
4	7	1	2	9	8	5	3	6
9	6	4	7	1	3	2	8	5
2	8	3	9	4	5	7	6	1
5	1	7	8	2	6	3	4	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Sweet and Spicy Chickpeas

INGREDIENTS:
398 mL can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime
1 tsp white sugar
1 tsp garam masala
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp dried oregano
2 tbsp canola oil
2 small onions, halved and thickly sliced
2 peppers (1 red, yellow or orange and 1 green), halved and thickly sliced
12 baby plum or cherry tomatoes, halved

METHOD:
1. Tip chickpeas into bowl. Add lime zest and juice, sugar, garam masala, cinnamon and oregano. Stir to coat chickpeas in spicy mixture. Set aside.

2. Heat large frying pan or wok with oil. When oil is hot, add onions and stir-fry 4 minutes or until just beginning to colour. Reduce heat and add peppers. Cook for further 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are almost tender.

3. Stir in tomatoes, then add spicy chickpea mixture. Cook 2 minutes or until vegetables are tender and everything is hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!
Reader's Digest HEART ATTACK!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you must make a decision about a work-related problems at least wait until the full moon on the 28th has passed by.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your work schedule is pretty full at the moment and if you commit yourself to something new it might stretch you too far.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can make things easy for yourself or you can make things difficult — it is your choice entirely.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Adventurous Crabs will go out of their way to seek out new experiences. Not-so-adventurous Crabs will have new experiences thrust upon them.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
There is a distinct chance that you will clash with a partner or loved one over something that is fundamental to your relationship.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You should find it easier to get along with partners, employers and colleagues this week, at least until the 28th.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A radical change of direction is signaled for the coming week and you must expect to encounter stiff opposition.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Try not to react in an emotional way to what is essentially a practical problem. You have a talent for hiding your true feelings. You need that talent now.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Current aspects add a sense of urgency to what you are doing but you must not get carried away — time is still on your side.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You have made a number of sacrifices in recent weeks and should now be feeling the benefits. So don't go and spoil it by taking unnecessary risks.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A relationship problem you have been trying to ignore will be brought into the open today and everything will change.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you are a bit worried about the way your life is going then talk things over with someone you can trust.

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Disney
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